

local telephone system operating, and others, for keeping our communities together through the darkness, the cold, and the isolation when most of the phone lines went down.

The immediate efforts of first responders as well as local and State officials are to be applauded. And I want to express a special thanks to the U.S. Coast Guard. The Coast Guard lost all of their communication. They lost their Internet. They lost their telephones. They lost their cell phones. They were down to VHF radio, 1950s technology, to communicate with other first responders and themselves, and yet, they went out and picked people off the roofs, went into homes. One of the rescuers went into a home that was flooded up to chest level and the lights were still on in the room where this disabled individual was located, and yet this rescue swimmer went in there with the electricity on and got the person out and into a rescue helicopter.

The National Guard performed heroic efforts. Camp Rilea became a safety shelter, kind of a dry safe harbor for the people of the north coast. They distributed generator fuel to so many people who were trying to run their own generators when the power went down, and at one point they were down to their last 30, 60, 90 minutes of fuel. But then they got resupplied and were able to help continue to keep other folks' generators working. And the radio station in Seaside had their antenna blown down, but they got right back up the next day when it was safe to get the antenna back up and get a generator going and kept folks informed.

I have tried to work closely with Governor Kulongoski, and he has been terrific through this entire episode. It was a Sunday-Monday storm, and I couldn't get a phone call through to folk in the area until Wednesday night, but Governor Kulongoski toured the area Tuesday afternoon and was on the phone with me Tuesday afternoon to tell me some of the things that were needed. The Governor and I work hard to make sure that both the State and the Federal components of recovery and prevention for the future, that we do our jobs, that we have not too much government but all the government that we need to keep Americans safe, to enable us to pull together in times of crisis and need.

Life is uncertain in the paradise that we call the Pacific Northwest. It has sometimes been referred to as the land of fire and ice. We have regular storms, periodic fires, and rare huge earthquakes and tsunamis. To paraphrase an author of the region: We are always searching for hardy people to match this challenging land. And I think that we do have those people.

Life in the paradise we call home may be uncertain, but we know that we are a match for it and we shall meet the challenges together. A long road of recovery lies ahead, but like the pioneers of old, we will bring everyone to

the finish line together. No one will be left behind. No one will be forgotten. I want to salute the citizens of the Pacific Northwest, the first responders, and everyone else who came from the region to help out in our time of need. Thank you.

Mr. ISSA. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. I want to say to my good friend from Oregon that his resolution not only informs us about the heroic efforts of first responders and the residents, but educates us about places where catastrophic storms may occur unexpectedly. It sounds as though the States of Oregon and Washington had a short-term version of Katrina and managed somehow to deal with it themselves. So we commend first responders and citizens of both States.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, on December 2 and 3, a severe winter storm swept across Oregon and Washington State. Countless first responders came to the aid of those in need and worked tirelessly to restore order in the aftermath of the storm. I strongly support H. Res. 851 in recognition of the dedication, service, and courage shown by these men and women.

The winter storm affected dozens of communities and many thousands of people in Washington and Oregon, including my constituents in the Ninth District of Washington. It struck the Pacific Northwest with a ferocity that is rarely seen in the region. The storm brought winds that exceeded 100 miles per hour, saturated the region with 10 inches of rain in a 24-hour period, and led to the loss of human lives. Homes and businesses were flooded, roads and thoroughfares were damaged or swept away, and thousands of citizens were left without electricity, heat, water, transportation, or adequate shelter.

Throughout and following the storm, the men and women of local and state police agencies, fire and rescue groups, local and state emergency first-response organizations, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the Oregon and Washington National Guard were ready to respond to the extraordinary circumstances. They rescued those trapped by the rising waters, provided aid to those in need of critical assistance, and helped to limit the ill effects of this tragic weather event.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I want to call particular attention to the service of the Washington National Guard. Some 400 Washington National Guard Members, 70 vehicles, and 11 teams supported response and recovery operations, conducted house-to-house searches, and provided needed food, water, and other emergency provisions. In cooperation with many other local, State, and Federal first responders, the men and women of the Washington State National Guard performed their duty admirably, and I am very grateful to them.

Please join me in honoring the Washington State National Guard and recognizing the many other first responders for their contributions during the winter storm of early December. I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 851.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARDOZA). The question is on the mo-

tion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 851.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SUBMISSION OF MATERIAL EXPLANATORY OF APPROPRIATIONS MEASURES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

Pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 869, the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations submitted explanatory material relating to appropriations measures for fiscal year 2008. The contents of this submission will be published in Book II of this RECORD.

RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF OKLAHOMA STATEHOOD

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 254) recognizing and celebrating the centennial of Oklahoma statehood.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 254

Whereas on November 16, 1907, Oklahoma officially became the 46th State of the Union;

Whereas prior to becoming a State, Oklahoma was designated as Indian Territory, providing a vibrant history and culture that continues to enrich the lives of its citizens;

Whereas the State of Oklahoma was shaped by those adventurous and daring individuals who embraced the spirit of this great Nation as they opened the frontier of the American West;

Whereas generations of proud people from all backgrounds have called Oklahoma their home and have contributed to its spirited history;

Whereas these hearty and resilient people have defined what has come to be known as the spirit of Oklahoma through their strength, character, and persistent strides toward a bright future;

Whereas the continued strength, initiative, and pursuit of excellence displayed by the citizens of the State of Oklahoma have produced its vibrant economy and secured it as a place of opportunity and progress now and for future generations;

Whereas the solid foundation of family and community embraced by the citizens of Oklahoma has been a constant guide and source of strength to those citizens throughout its history and will remain so long into its future;

Whereas the natural beauty and abundant resources of the State of Oklahoma support a quality of life for its citizens that is unsurpassed; and